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SERVICES[1]

Mr. J. Walter Ackerman:[2] The practice I have always followed in installing services is to use the lead gooseneck. Other people use a complete lead pipe, but I was quite surprised to learn that a great number of people apparently are using an absolutely rigid connection; that is, they simply put in a corporation cock on the side of the main and screw a wrought iron pipe directly into it, and that is all there is to it. They claim that they have no trouble. If that is a fact and anybody here has had that experience, it seems to me it is worthy of a great deal of consideration, because there would undoubtedly be a great saving in the expense of putting in service pipe. Might I ask if there is anyone in the room who uses that practice here, will they please raise their hands? (Several members responded.)

The Chair: In the New England district, I think it is quite common practice.

Mr. Ackerman: Why do we not all use it, if it creates no trouble?

Mr. Brown: Because of different soil conditions.

Mr. Ackerman: I do not see how the soil condition has anything to do with it unless you use all lead pipe. I am simply looking at it from the standpoint of construction. Where I happen to come from at the present time is the cold North, where the frost goes down deep. When I arrived there I found that the practice was to use a lead gooseneck, but it is put in absolutely straight, on the side of the main and going absolutely straight, with a short gooseneck only a foot long. It is not actually a gooseneck, because it is absolutely straight, but it is a lead connection. All the other fittings are made sufficiently large, so that when it does freeze up, as frequently happens, and one cannot thaw it by electricity, it is possible to thaw it by running a small pipe on the inside and pumping through it hot water. By laying the pipe absolutely straight, you can thaw it all the way through to the main. Prior to my present location, in Watertown, New York, we used a lead gooseneck with a curve. Of course you could not rod through that. As to the other features of the article, who pays for the installation and who maintains it, I might say that I have had two practices, namely the consumer pays and maintains in the first case, and in the second, he pays but the water department maintains. It is my belief that either the latter practice or that of having the water department lay and maintain is the best.

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[1] Discussion at the Cleveland Convention, June 10, 1921.

[2] Superintendent, Water Board, Watertown, N. Y.

MR. A. PRESCOTT FOLWELL:[3] Mr. Ackerman had in mind, I think, not so much the chemical reason for putting in the lead pipe as the mechanical reason. I was brought up also to think that a gooseneck was essential to prevent a settlement of the soil around a pipe from possibly breaking the connection between the service and the main. Where we have a soil that carries a large number of small stones from the size of a "niggerhead" down to the size of your fist, or of large gravel, there is danger that a stone of some kind will land on top of the service and carry in addition some superimposed weight, and with the settlement of the soil underneath the service, considerable weight will come upon it and tend to break it off; while with a little play offered by a lead gooseneck, that can be largely avoided, and that is what I presume Mr. Ackerman had in mind. I wonder whether there are not a good many partial breaks in the case of straight iron pipe services without any lead pipe that are not known or suspected by superintendents?

There was another point Mr. Ackerman made that I think referred to putting the cock on the side of the pipe or the top. The same argument holds good to my mind for putting the cock on top of the pipe rather than at the side, because again you avoid the tendency of anything lodging on top of a cock and breaking it off if the earth should settle under it, or at least stripping the thread and loosening the joint in the main. There are not many threads between a corporation cock and a thin cast iron pipe, and it is not very difficult to strip them so that the water will squirt out in a stream. In my young days I built both water works and sewers, and at one town we were running a sewer trench right alongside of a water main, without any sheathing. We came to a factory where they had a

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[3] Editor, *Public Works*, New York, N. Y.

2-inch service but had multiple cocks distributed about 5 feet apart, along the main connected up to this service pipe. In spite of all instructions and everything except actual blows, it was almost impossible to prevent the Italians from using the corporation cocks as steps for getting out of the trench. On one occasion the corporation cock at one end of this row of half a dozen gave way under the weight of an Italian who then excitedly jumped onto the next cock to get out, and before he got out, he had broken off all six of those corporation cocks. If those cocks had been on the top instead of on the side, that would not have happened. If there is no good reason for placing the cock on the side of the pipe rather than the top, it does seem to be an argument for putting it on the top that this may prevent the rupture of the cock or the springing of a leak.